



Dear Representative,

I am writing today regarding the brownfield redevelopment legislation known as the Michigan Thrive initiative.

This bill is about two paths forward for the Michigan Comeback. We must make no mistake. While we have come far, there is still a long way to go. Many of our cities are on the decline, or just starting a still-fragile rebound.

Path one takes us down a road where we set this bill aside, and blighted or abandoned sites in the heart of our communities stay that way. There is no influx of private investment, no job creation, no catalytic project that spurs growth and brings optimism to the community.

Path two is one where we pass the Michigan Thrive initiative, and private capital comes into these struggling communities, transforms these sites, and moves the community forward. This path creates jobs for local families, creates income and economic opportunity, and - the way the legislation is designed - results in a net increase in tax revenue for the community and the state.

You may ask: why is the Christian Coalition going out of its way to advocate for this legislation? Because we want to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. We want those who are struggling to have the opportunity to prosper. Financial stress remains the leading cause of divorce in our society. As always, the best long-term solution is to promote greater growth and opportunity. That is what this legislation does.

Without this bill, these projects simply will not take place. The proof is all around us, as these sites have sat vacant for years or decades. It is not as if the state is giving something away, because without this tool, we would have nothing.

The risk of these transformational projects lies squarely with the developer, not the taxpayer. If the project isn't successful, the developer takes the loss, and the taxpayer is out nothing. If the project is successful, a major new development results, bringing jobs and growth and optimism. And the state then gets 50% of something -- instead of 100% of nothing.

I urge you to support these important bills, and with them, Michigan's continued comeback.

Respectfully,
Keith den Hollander
Midwest Director – Christian Coalition of America